

OLBA 2005

Ian Hunter, President



Message from the President

Should we continue, or does the OLBA still have a role to play? We decided that we would stay in business, serving the needs of library board members, while being careful to avoid overlap and duplication with FOPL.

In 2005, where will OLBA put its attention? This is to be determined, but it is evident that OLBA is well positioned to build on its professional development efforts. Libraries are becoming centres of community development, and so trustees will need more information, tools and training to guide this progress.

Future OLBA-sponsored training will be delivered by professional trainers and by fellow trustees. The training will be around us: at conferences, at regional training events, and online. Trustees will seek out learning opportunities throughout their term, rather than limiting their training to a one-off "orientation."

Upon reflection, I must say that I have thoroughly enjoyed my time on the OLBA Council. It has been not only a wonderful learning experience, it also presents a chance to serve and promote the work of library trustees across Ontario. I would encourage any keen Ontario library board member to consider volunteering for or even joining the OLBA Council. The term of office is three years. Please talk to any member of Council about your interests.

In closing, I would like to say that the OLBA Council is most effective when it is in touch with its members. We meet and see you at the at the SOLS' Trustee Council meetings, at regional training sessions and conferences, and at this SuperConference. We also communicate with you by e-mail. If you need help or have questions

about your work as a library trustee, please contact a member of the OLBA Council or pose your question on the OLBA members' listserv. It's by this interaction that we all learn and improve, and our libraries benefit as a result.

Thank you for coming to SuperConference and the AGM. Enjoy the rest of the conference and go back to your libraries brimming with stories and ideas.

Thank you as well to Council for its fine work over the past year. Let's give Suzanne the same great support in 2005.

I would like to welcome the OLBA members and guests to the 2005 Annual General Meeting.

First, I guess I should thank Eleanor Jourard and Sheila Clarke who, at last year's AGM, requested that we move our annual general meeting from a sleepy 8 a.m. timeslot to the afternoon. The OLBA acted on this request, and I think you would agree with me that 5:15 p.m. is a much more civilized time for this important meeting!

In 2001, I joined the OLTA (now OLBA) Council as the eastern Ontario representative. I had been a trustee on the Kanata Public Library Board (1995-2000), and had just been appointed to the newly amalgamated Ottawa Public Library Board. In 2003, I became OLBA Vice-President, and then last year I became President. Today, the rotation continues: vice-president Suzanne Culp becomes president, and I become past president.

Last year, 2004, was interesting. The pending "birth" of the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries (FOPL) has caused the OLBA to examine its own focus and future.

ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, February 3, 2005

5:15 p.m. to 6 p.m.

- 1.0 Call to Order
- 2.0 Welcome – Ian Hunter,
OLBA President
- 3.0 Establishment of Quorum
- 4.0 Approve Agenda
- 5.0 Approve 2004 OLBA AGM
Minutes
- 6.0 Business Arising from the
2004 OLBA AGM Minutes
- 7.0 2004 President's Report
- 8.0 Treasurer's Report
- 9.0 OLBA Councillors' Reports
(attached)
- 10.0 New Business
 - 10.1 OLA Super Conference
Report – Shelagh Harris
 - 10.2 Other
- 11.0 Election/Approval of new
OLBA Councillors
- 12.0 2005 President's Report
- 13.0 Adjournment

ONTARIO LIBRARY BOARDS
ASSOCIATION

**MINUTES OF THE 2004
ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING**

OLBA Annual General Meeting
Metro Toronto Convention Centre
Saturday, 31 January, 2004
8 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.

MINUTES

8:05 a.m. Call to order.

1.0 President Bob Allen welcomed those present, noting that even at the early hour there were approximately 30 people in attendance.

2.0 It was established that there was a quorum for the voting that would be taking place.

3.0 Moved by Margaret MacLean, seconded by Meyer Brownstone, that the agenda be approved as circulated. Carried.

4.0 Moved by Peter Rogers, seconded by Margaret MacLean, that the minutes of the 2003 Annual General Meeting be approved as circulated. Carried.

5.0 There was no business arising from the minutes.

6.0 Bob Allen gave his President's Report. Highlights of the year included OLBA sponsorship of Ken Haycock's series of teleconferences ("Redefining the Library Board for Dynamic Communities"), Joyce Smith and Shelagh Harris' organization of Super Conference 2004, with approximately 4600 attendees, and the fact that while

membership in the Ontario Library Association has increased by 25% in the last year, 15% of this is from OLBA. Bob thanked all the members of OLBA, particularly Peter Rogers, Joyce and Shelagh, for their work on behalf of trustees across Ontario. One of his suggestions for next year is the examination, in partnership with the Ontario government, of the process for delivery of the per household grants for libraries.

7.0 Leanne Sedgwick gave the Treasurer's Report. Although the audit has not been completed (our audit is part of the OLA audit) for 2003, OLBA is within budget. A copy of the audited statement will be made available when completed.

8.0 New Business. Members of OLBA Council for 2004 are as follows: President Ian Hunter; Vice President Suzanne Culp; Past President Bob Allen; Treasurer and Councillor for Central Region East Leanne Sedgwick; Secretary and Councillor for Eastern Region Margaret Wicklum; Councillor for Northwestern Region Margaret MacLean; Councillor for Northeastern Region Jan Perfect; Councillor for Southwestern Region Joan Harrison; Councillor for Mid Central Region Jim MacDonald (subject to appointment to the Board of Orillia Public Library Board); and Councillor for Central Region West Bob Ernest.

There was discussion regarding the inadequacy of the voting method for the Vice-President's position. Some members of OLBA received their ballots late, others not at all. In view of this, all ballots returned were counted, even though some missed the deadline.

Electronic voting will be considered for next year.

9.0 At this point the incoming President took the chair, welcoming those present and encouraging them to consider being on OLBA Council in the coming years. He thanked the outgoing Council members and welcomed the new and returning members of the OLBA Council. He pledged that the OLBA would continue the focus on trustee training.

10.0 Past President Peter Rogers informed the meeting that under the new Municipal Act there are new municipal performance measures, including assessment of library services, that have to be submitted to the provincial government. OLBA had input at these meetings, and were told that there would not be any requirement for generation of new statistics, as libraries already submit their statistics annually. OLBA is also monitoring the meetings of the Canadian Federation of Public Libraries taskforce. Ian and Bob Allen will remain on the Strategic Directions council.

11.0 Moved by Eleanor Jourard, seconded by Sheila Clarke, that OLBA consider changing the time of the AGM. It was felt that an afternoon session, rather than a Saturday morning session, would entice more members to attend. One member said that a new time would not make any difference, since some members are simply not interested in going to an AGM. The motion was carried.

12.0 Moved by Margaret MacLean, that the meeting be adjourned. Carried.

9.0 2004 OLBA COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

9.1 VICE-PRESIDENT

It has been an exciting year to be part of the OLBA Council. As your vice-president/president-elect, the two responsibilities that have taken most of my time and energy in 2004 are being part of the "InsideOLBA" editorial team along with Bob Ernest and Peter Rogers, and sitting as one of the OLBA reps on the Strategic Directions Council. OLBA's newsletter has been published 4 times during the year and several new features have been added, including Trustee Profiles, What's Happening @your library, and Northern Lights. The response we've had to the new additions has been very positive. As far as the Strategic Directions Council is concerned, I have been very involved in the efforts to launch the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries, a venture that has been attempted several times over the past 15 years. The founding meeting was held earlier this afternoon at OLA SuperConference. As the Federation moves forward, one of the challenges for OLBA will be to ensure that we continue to provide opportunities for trustee development during this time of flux, something that we have done very successfully in the past in partnership with SOLS and OLS-North. As your president in 2005, I look forward to meeting all the challenges with the help of the other members of the OLBA Council. I'd like to thank outgoing president Ian Hunter for his hard work and excellent leadership during the past year. It has been a pleasure to work with him and all the other members of the OLBA team.

9.2 NORTHWESTERN REGION

As your Northwestern representative on OLBA, I have updated the OLA Library Boards' database with listings of all new board members in my region. This has

been done through emails to the various libraries and the help of OLS-N for those libraries without emails. I have contributed newsworthy items for the "Northern Lights" section of Inside OLBA. I have also facilitated OLBA sessions at the OLA Super Conference and participated in the OLBA Council Awards Committee.

I am the CLTA liaison with CLA and have continued as Chair of the CLTA Stan Heath Achievement in Literacy Award as well as the CLTA Merit Award for Distinguished Service as a Public Library Trustee. Hopefully, funding this year will permit an OLBA presence at the OLS-N joint conference in Sault Ste Marie as well as the NOMA conference in Kenora.

Please send me any news of your library. We want to hear from you. Also consider nominating your library or a trustee for both the OLBA and CLTA awards.

9.3 NORTHEASTERN REGION

This year was my first year as Councillor - Northeastern Region. It was a very busy and exciting year as I participated in a number of OLBA-related events and attended Council meetings in Toronto.

I have been working with the OLBA Council to explore opportunities for providing trustees with development opportunities. On May 27, 2004, it was my pleasure to host a "Rules of Engagement: The New Governance" Board Development workshop in the auditorium at the North Bay Public Library. Over twenty trustees from approximately eight different libraries attended this event. In addition, this workshop was delivered by teleconference and a number of Northern library boards were able to participate.

As members of the Northern Ontario Library Service Board, my colleague,

Margaret MacLean (Northwestern Region), and I have ensured that issues raised by OLBA Council meetings are discussed at our meetings.

One of my goals this year has been to improve the profile of Northern libraries and to share our experiences with our colleagues in other parts of the province. At the 2004 SuperConference, I talked about the experiences and benefits that partnerships the North Bay Public Library has developed over the years at a session called "Twinned Libraries: Contributions and Benefits." This fall, I contributed an article to our newsletter, profiling a young trustee from the North Bay Public Library. I have also committed to contributing a profile of a Northern Library to the spring issue of "Access."

The membership drive for the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries has been very successful. I was really pleased to see that a lot of libraries from across Northeastern Ontario committed themselves to this organization. By agreeing to participate, these libraries are ensuring that Northern libraries contribute their voices to the creation and future development of the Federation.

9.4 EASTERN REGION

9.5 CENTRAL EAST REGION

9.6 MID-CENTRAL REGION

9.7 TORONTO

(No Reports)

9.8 CENTRAL WEST REGION

Over the past year I have been attending Trustee Council meetings in two regions: Trustee Council Area One which includes library boards in the south-western area; and Area Two which includes boards in Huron, Bruce, Grey, Perth and Wellington counties. These library boards vary greatly in size, services and governance. These

meetings are a wonderful opportunity for trustees to be updated on the latest developments in provincial events and services; to share ideas; to seek solutions to local concerns; to receive professional development and to meet other trustees in the region.

As an OLBA representative at these meetings, I have presented the OLBA portion of the professional growth part of the meeting and promoted participation in OLBA and its activities. This past year we provided regional workshops on the Rules Of Engagement designed particularly for the large number of new trustees on our boards this year. We have also actively promoted the founding of the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries. .

I am pleased that almost every board represented at these regional meetings is a member of OLBA and almost every board sends representation to the OLA SuperConference. Our challenge over the next year will be to increase participation in OLBA and in the regional meetings.

My responsibility on OLBA provincial council includes serving on the editorial board for the OLBA newsletter, InsideOLBA. The communications responsibility also includes representing OLBA on the editorial board for OLA's magazine Access.

Our print publications are just one aspect of our communications plan. Trustees are encouraged to regularly check the OLBA website, and the websites for OLA and SOLS for news of interest to library boards. We also encourage the exchange of ideas through the OLBA listserv.

At the local level, I completed my term as interim chair of the Waterloo Public Library Board and now serve as vice-chair on the new board.

9.9 SOUTHWESTERN REGION

This has been an exciting year in the library business. The latest excitement is the government's recent decision to allow libraries to apply for Trillium grants. This will open the door, literally for many libraries to become more accessible to the public. Many of our libraries are the Carnegie-style which makes things difficult for the elderly or physically challenged.

The year was filled with area meetings. The discussions were always lively and the spirit of sharing ideas was alive and well. The formal aspects of these meeting were timely and topical but the network sharing times seems to be the heart of the meeting with everyone participating in animated conversation. Each year presents new challenges but at year-end it is very satisfying to look back at what has been accomplished!

2.0 OLBA AGM INFORMATION 2004 OLBA Council

President
Ian Hunter

Board: xOttawa
hunter.ian@hrma-agrh.gc.ca

Vice-President and President-Elect
Suzanne Culp
Board: Lincoln
sculp@sympatico.ca

Treasurer
Leanne Sedgwick
Board: Brock Township
lsedgwick1@aol.com

Secretary
Margaret Wicklum
Board: Brockville
wicklumbrockville@sympatico.ca

Past President
Bob Allen
Board: Niagara-on-the-Lake
allenr@niagara.com

Councillor - Northwestern Region
Margaret MacLean
Boards: Thunder Bay, OLS-North
mmaclean@sky.lakeheadu.ca

Councillor - Northeastern Region
Jan Perfect
Boards: North Bay, OLS-North
jan.perfect@jus.gov.on.ca

Councillor - Eastern Region
Margaret Wicklum
Board: Brockville
wicklumbrockville@sympatico.ca

Councillor - Central Region East
Leanne Sedgwick
Board: Brock Township
lsedgwick1@aol.com

Councillor - Mid-Central Region
Jim MacDonald
Board: Orillia
j-macdonald1@rogers.com

Councillor - Toronto
Meyer Brownstone
(resigned Nov. 2004)
Board: Toronto

Councillor - Central Region West
Bob Ernest
Board: Waterloo
bobernest@hotmail.com

Councillor - Southwestern Region -
Joan Harrison
Board: Bruce County
harrison@bmts.com

